

Overview of main development results in Benin in 2014

Summary Multi Annual Strategic Plan (MASP)

The Netherlands' development cooperation with Benin, a transition country, focuses on three priorities - food security, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and water and sanitation - and on economic diplomacy: improving the business climate, persuading Dutch enterprises to invest in Benin, and helping modernise the Port of Cotonou. There is potential for increased trade between Benin and the Netherlands in the area of water and agriculture. Benin performs reasonably well on governance indicators compared to other countries in the region. Within the priority programmes, sector governance nevertheless plays a role in all projects. Due to fraud at the water ministry in 2014, the whole water programme was stopped in May 2015.

Priority themes

- Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)
- Food security
- Water

Embassy contribution to changes at country level

In 2014, 18 youth centres were set up (16 in 2013) providing information on reproductive health, 89,700 young people (up from 69,000 in 2013) were counseled for sexual transmitted diseases in Dutch-supported centres, and 129,000 young people (76,000 in 2013) were reached through peer education.

In 2014 the number of couple years of protection reached 79,200 (up from 34,970 in 2013). Embassy programmes distributed 7,800 female condoms, 3,800 intra-uterine devices and 7,500 implants. 1,013 religious leaders were sensitised to the benefits of family planning (compared to 167 in 2013).

Benin improved strongly on the Doing Business Index, and was the top reformer in 2014 (second of all countries). 80 Dutch businesses received support through the embassy and embassy partners and a total of 10 Dutch companies were attracted to Benin (up from 7 in 2013).

Dutch food strategy focuses on post-harvest supply chain development and factors enabling production, like feeder roads to improve market access. By end 2014 18,030 km of feeder roads had regular maintenance (2013: 11,290 km) and 1,950 km periodic maintenance (2013: 1,225 km) (cumulative figures).

Interest is growing in Benin in Dutch expertise in the water sector, including port activities.

Rural water coverage (68.1% in 2014 compared to 65.6% in 2013) and urban water coverage (72% in 2014 compared to 68.8% in 2013) continue to increase steadily. No data are available yet on sanitation, since most programmes are in the early stages of implementation.

Clarifications of results achieved

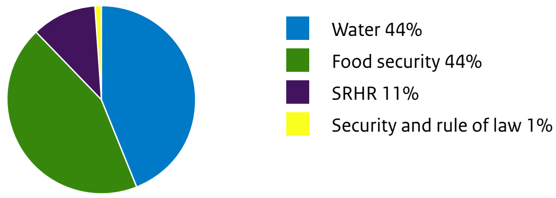
SRHR: the government continues to be slow in formulating and executing its own programmes. INGOs perform much better.
Food security: the government is still too slow in applying new land law/regulations.
Water: due to fraud at the water ministry in 2014, the entire water programme was stopped in May 2015.

Implications for planning

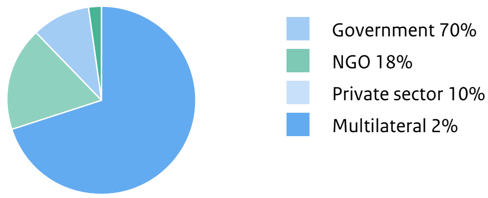
Due to fraud in the water sector, increased attention to governance issues is important. The Dutch decision to suspend all government-related programmes has sparked an intense debate within Benin and among donors which may prepare fertile ground for serious improvements.

Expenditures 2014 per theme

Total expenditure Embassy €32,092,000



Expenditures 2014 per channel



Developments in Benin

On track | Progress, but not on track | No progress

Better informed young people who are thus able to make healthier choices regarding their sexuality
A growing number of people with access to anti-retroviral drugs, contraceptives and other sexual health commodities
More efficient markets and an improved business climate
An increase in sustainable food production
Improved link between trade and development cooperation in the water sector
An increase in water and sanitation coverage